

**AGENDA**  
**SUISUN MARSH TECHCOMM MEETING**

DWR, Environmental Services Office, Large Conference Room  
9:30 am, July 27, 2000

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Agenda Changes, Announcements, and Other Business
2. April 27, 2000 Summary
3. Next meeting: 9:30 am, Thursday, October 26, 2000  
DWR, Environmental Services Office,  
Large Conference Room

**DWR REPORT**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 4. Water Quality Monitoring/SWRCB Compliance Report | Liz Cook         |
| 5. 1998 and 1999 Annual Reports                     | Cassandra Enos   |
| 6. SMSCG Modification Test                          | Leslie Pierce    |
| 7. SMPA Amendment Three                             | Kamyar Guivetchi |
| 8. SMPA ECAT Update                                 | Terri Gaines     |
| 9. CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team     | Chris Enright    |
| 10. Suisun Ecological Workgroup Report              | Eliza Sater      |
| 11. Morrow Island Fish Screen Project               | Mike Floyd       |
| 12. Vegetation Survey Update (1999 and 2000)        | Cassandra Enos   |
| 13. Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Genetics Study         | Patty Finrock    |

**DFG REPORT**

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 14. Island Slough Monitoring            | Laurie Barthman Thompson |
| 15. Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Monitoring | Laurie Barthman Thompson |
| - 1999 Results                          |                          |
| - 2000 Activities                       |                          |

**SRCD REPORT**

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 16. Renewal of USACE Regional General Permit | Steve Chappell |
| 17. Suisun Marsh Regulatory Group Update     | Steve Chappell |
| 18. Waterfowl Feeding Ecology Study          | Steve Chappell |

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MEETING SUMMARY  
SUISUN MARSH TECHCOMM MEETING  
April 27, 2000**

DWR, Environmental Services Office, Large Conference Room

**ATTENDEES**

Stephen Berger, RWQCB  
Steven Chappell, SRCD  
Carissa Dunn, USBR  
Chris Enright, DWR  
Fred Feyrer, DWR

Dawn Friend, DWR  
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR  
Callie Harrison, DWR  
Heidi Rooks, DWR  
Laurie Barthman Thompson, DFG

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Item 1 - Agenda Changes and Announcements**

Kamyar Guivetchi will give the update on Item 9 for Eliza Sater. Callie Harrison, the new engineer with Suisun Marsh Planning, was introduced. Carissa Dunn of the USBR has taken over Will Keck's involvement in Suisun Marsh projects.

**Item 2 - January 27, 2000 Meeting Summary**

The discussion about how the meeting minutes are put together will continue.

**Item 3 - Next TECHCOMM Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2000 at 9:30 am, DWR Central District Large Conference Room.

**DWR REPORT**

**Item 4 - Water Quality Monitoring/SMSCG Ops.**

Dawn Friend (for Liz Cook):

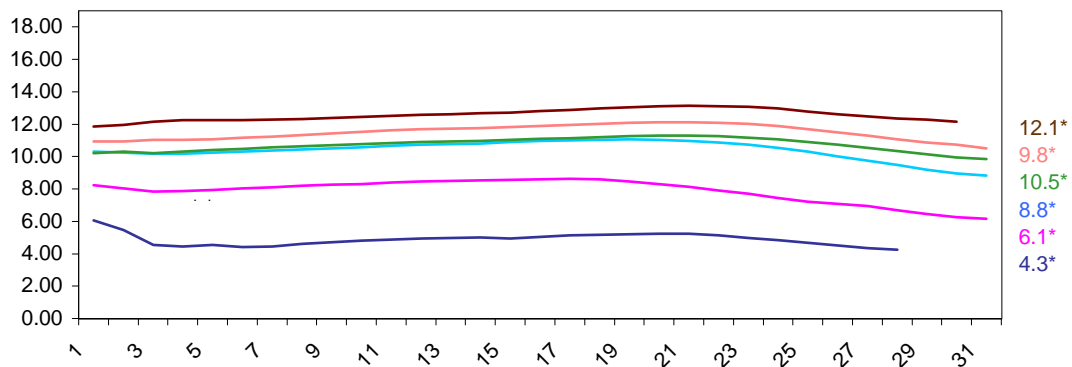
Salinity compliance was met at all compliance monitoring stations - Collinsville, National Steel, Beldons Landing, Sunrise Club and Volanti - for the months January, February and March 2000. A graphical summary titled "Progressive Mean of Specific Conductance at High Tide for Suisun Marsh Compliance Stations and the Morrow Island Monitoring Station" was distributed.

# Progressive Mean of Specific Conductance at High Tide for Suisun Marsh Compliance Stations and the Morrow Island Monitoring Station

Collinsville (C-2)      National Steel (S-64)      Beldons (S-49)  
 Sunrise Club (S-21)      Volanti (S-42)      Morrow Island (S-35)

January

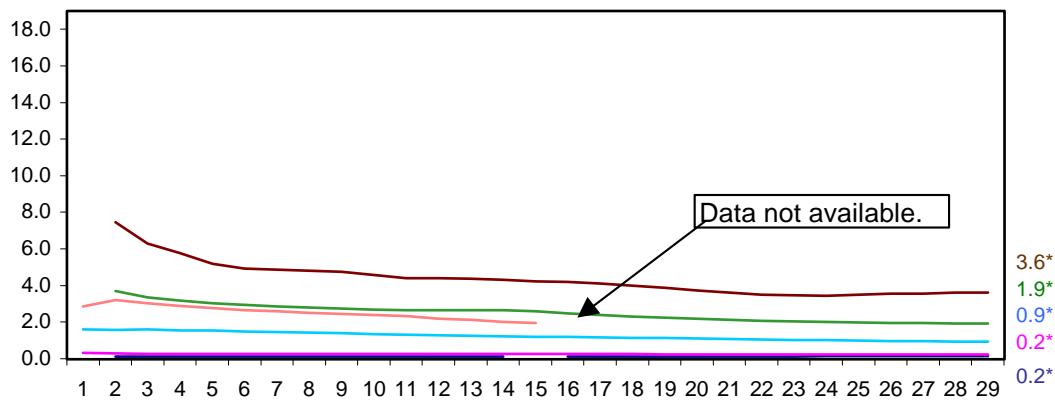
Standard: 12.5 mS/cm



February

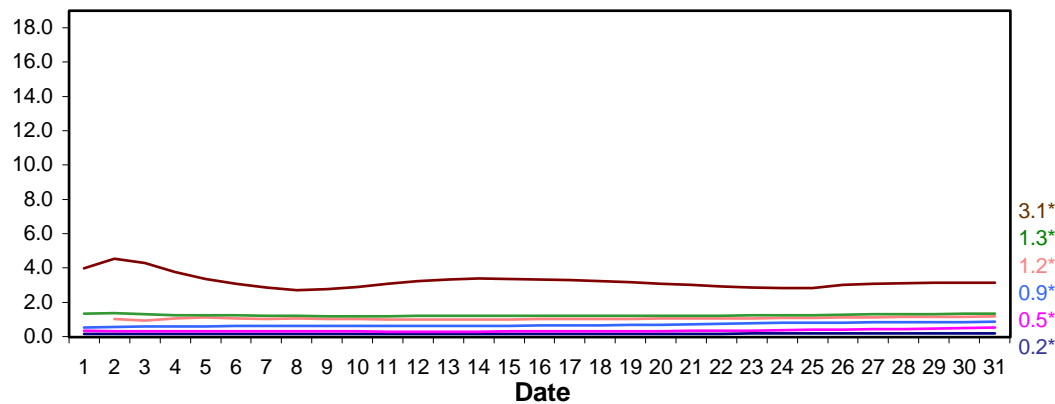
Standard: 8.0 mS/cm

Specific Conductance (milliSiemens/cm)



March

Standard = 8.0 mS/cm



\* = monthly mean specific electrical conductance at high tide.

The Salinity Control gates were open with the modified flashboards in place from December 10, 1999 through January 16, 2000. The gates were operated with the modified flashboards in place from January 17 through February 29, 2000. Gate operation, in addition to small increases in Delta outflow, prevented compliance standards from being exceeded during January 2000. Continued gate operation, combined with repaid increases in Delta Outflow beginning February 12, 2000 caused salinity levels to decline during February. Control gate operation was ceased and the gates were left open with the modified flashboards in place from March 1 through March 31, 2000. Continued high Delta outflow throughout most of March maintained low salinities at the compliance sites. All flashboards were removed from the control structure on March 28, 2000.

#### **Item 5 – SMSCG Modification Test**

Fred Feyrer (for Leslie Pierce):

A decision has not been made yet on whether or not to conduct another salmon tagging study this fall. DWR is preparing tidal stage data to send to DFG for comparison with salmon passage. The DFG report for the 1999 study will be completed this summer.

#### **Item 6 – SMPA ECAT/Amendment Three**

Kamyar Guivetchi:

The attached SMPA ECAT 2000 Update was distributed and reviewed briefly.

#### **Item 7 - CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Subteam**

Chris Enright:

The Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team has completed modeling analysis. The Team is preparing a report to CALFED which will recommend that Suisun Marsh levees should be included in the CALFED Levee Program. Further recommendations include establishment of an emergency response Program, a levee maintenance program patterned on the Delta Levee Subvention Program, and further development of criteria for willing seller land purchase priorities. The Team has also identified Marsh land elevations as a significant data gap, and the need to refine modeling analysis of realistic restoration alternatives.

The Team is planning more information outreach to Suisun Marsh landowners. The next outreach meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2000 in Fairfield. The draft Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Report will be sent to all land owners prior to the meeting.

## **Item 8 – Suisun Ecological Workgroup**

Kamyar Guivetchi (for Eliza Sater):

The SEW final report is nearing completion. All reports except for the Wildlife Subcommittee's have been submitted. Once the Wildlife Subcommittee report is complete, the draft report will be finalized and submitted to IEP for review. Following this review and subsequent revision, the final report will be submitted to the SWRCB. It is expected that SWRCB will hold public meetings to receive comments on the SEW report sometime after the report is submitted.

## **Item 9 – Morrow Island Fish Screen Project**

Kamyar Guivetchi (for Mike Floyd):

Meetings with Morrow Island landowners resulted in development of a Hybrid System for fish protection. This system is comprised of screens and fill/drain pipes located at the intake, within the distribution system, and along Goodyear and Suisun Sloughs as described below:

- Two conical screens and one drain will be located at the intake.
- Five individual conical screened pipes will be placed along Goodyear and Suisun Sloughs to serve Mulberry and Morrow Island clubs.
- A new fill pipe will be located on the distribution system towards the eastern side of the island to allow filling of Mulberry Pond C.
- A new drain/fill pipe will be located on the western side of the Friendly Godfather club.

DOE will be responsible for design of facilities at the intake and SRCD will install the fish screens. DWR O&M and USBR will be responsible for O&M on all facilities (intake and distributed). Expected capital cost for the project is \$2 - 2.5 million. Although this cost is higher than original large screen plan, the Hybrid System will be easier to operate and maintain and is more acceptable to the landowners.

## **Item 10 - Preparation for 2000 Vegetation Survey**

Kamyar Guivetchi (for Cassandra Enos):

The 2000 Vegetation Survey will consist of a change detection analysis of the 1999 and 2000 aerial photos. The procedure involves overlaying the current year's photos over the mosaic of last years photos and polygon delineations, and manually checking for significant differences. This process will be used to determine when and/or if a complete field re-survey of the marsh is necessary.

Staff from the Department of Fish and Game have conducted reconnaissance surveys of the marsh to determine the appropriate month to take the aerial photos to achieve phenological congruence with the vegetation in the 1999 photos. Based on the surveys, DFG has requested the aerials be flown in July. Also, DFG staff have determined satellite images will not be necessary this year due to the high quality of the aerial photos.

DWR ESO staff will be selecting low-tide windows during the month of July and consulting with Photogrammetry to request the appropriate flight times.

## **DFG REPORT**

### **Item 11 – Island Slough Monitoring Plan**

Laurie Barthman Thompson:

This plan is being updated to include all Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse mitigation areas and will be distributed to the Suisun ECAT for review.

### **Item 12 – Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Monitoring Program**

Laurie Barthman Thompson:

A long term (six year) monitoring plan is being developed for implementation this summer. This plan will include monitoring existing SMHM conservation areas, proposed conservation areas, implementation of a SMHM genetics study, and habitat investigations. The DFG is waiting for comments from the USFWS. The final plan will be distributed to the Suisun ECAT for review.

## **SRCD REPORT**

### **Item 13 – Renewal of USACE Regional General Permit**

Steve Chappell:

The USACE Regional General Permit was issued on April 24, 2000. SRCD has sent the 2000 work season applications for this up coming summer. There are some minor changes in the new permit form the previous permit, such as an audit of work activities at the end of the summer and Delta Smelt closures are based upon the DF&G 20 mm survey.

May 12, 2000 - SRCD will be holding a landowner workshop

June 3, 2000 - Cal. Waterfowl Association will have it's annual Field

Day event.

July 24, 2000 - Cal Fed will have another landowner workshop

**UPDATE**  
**Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement**  
**Environmental Coordination Advisory Team**  
**April 1999 – April 2000**

**ECAT Mission:** Defined in Amendment 3 of the SMPA, Article XIII:

The ECAT will have responsibility for: (1) ensuring compliance with mitigation and monitoring requirements of this Agreement and related permits and biological opinions, and (2) provide technical guidance and oversight of Suisun Marsh monitoring, management and restoration programs conducted as part of the SMPA, including its monitoring and mitigation agreements.

**Meetings:**

Meetings were held on a monthly basis, with the exception of August. A meeting was not held during August due to the USFWS relocation.

**Issues Addressed:**

1. ECAT's *initial* tasks, as defined in Amendment 3, were to:
  - (A) develop updated protocol for managing SMHM habitat and monitoring SMHM and its habitat in cooperation with USFWS staff, and
  - (B) develop recommendations for use of the last installment of DWR and Reclamation mitigation payments contained in the Suisun Marsh Mitigation Agreement, ...which shall include mitigation activities that mitigate for impacts to listed and sensitive species.
2. Formal consultation with USFWS for SMPA Amendment Three and Renewal of SRCD's Regional General Permit.
3. Review of mitigation alternatives to installation of fish screens for MIDS maintenance. Evaluation of alternative MIDS operations to eliminate need for fish screen.
4. Adoption of proposed conservation areas to meet the 2,500 acre goal for SMHM habitat in the Suisun Marsh.
5. Development of criteria to evaluate suitable SMHM habitat in tidal areas.
6. Development of site selection criteria for mitigation property acquisition.
7. Development of new methods for SMHM monitoring in the Marsh, such as genetic studies.
8. Status of compliance with the USFWS biological opinion monitoring requirements.
9. Evaluation of the ECAT timeline, vision, and goals for the year.
10. Development of new methodology for California clapper rail monitoring and timeline for implementation of monitoring.



## **Decisions and Accomplishments:**

1. Implemented new methodology for Suisun Marsh vegetation surveys.
2. Developed new survey protocol for the salt marsh harvest mouse in the Suisun Marsh and conducted 1999 SMHM monitoring for existing and proposed conservation areas.
3. USFWS approved 57 acres on Island Slough as SMHM habitat mitigation land for the MIDS maintenance project. ECAT approved physical modifications on Island Slough for SMHM habitat development.
4. Developed a Permit Matrix for tracking of SMPA compliance and mitigation requirements.
5. Completed final "Biological Assessment, Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement as Modified by Amendment Three".
6. MIDS fish screen:
  - USACE decided mitigation will not be required for the footprint of the MIDS fish screen.
  - DWR developed six alternatives for meeting the USFWS requirement to screen MIDS intakes, and conducted modeling studies to look at how alternatives would effect adjacent managed wetlands.
  - ECAT developed and evaluated alternatives to MIDS fish screen.
7. Completed and submitted the Northeastern Suisun Marsh Habitat Restoration Proposal to CALFED.
8. DFG conducted a GIS survey of all existing and proposed SMHM conservation areas.
9. DFG/SRCD submitted a joint application to the USACE for renewal of the Regional Maintenance Permit.
10. SRCD established an interagency workgroup for the SRCD Regional General Permit renewal. ECAT parties attend meetings.
11. ECAT reviewed and/or approved the following monitoring plans:
  - Aerial Waterfowl Survey Protocol
  - MIDS Mitigation Development, Management and Monitoring Plan for 57 Acres at Island Slough
  - SMHM Monitoring Proposal for the Suisun Marsh
  - Island Slough Monitoring Proposal
  - California Clapper Rail and California Black Rail Monitoring Proposal for the Suisun Marsh
  - SMHM Habitat on Department of Fish and Game Lands in the Suisun Marsh, A Proposal for Management
12. ECAT recommended to the SMPA Coordinators funding all three phases of the "Conservation Genetics of SMHM" study.
13. DWR and USBR transferred approximately \$3.2 million to DFG as the final installment of the Suisun Marsh Mitigation Agreement.
14. ECAT established an interagency workgroup to develop a CALFED Proposal Solicitation Package for tidal wetlands restoration in Suisun Marsh.

15. ECAT approved the following reports/documents:

- DFG report to USFWS on status of compliance
- DFG report on 1987-1997 SMHM trapping data for the Conservation areas
- DFG compilation of vegetation monitoring data for the 1,000 acre Conservation areas
- "Island Slough Wetland Development Management and Monitoring Update"
- Draft "Project Description Including Minimization Measures for the Renewal of the USACE Regional General Maintenance Permit"

**Participants:**

1. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation: Carissa Dunn, Will Keck
2. California Department of Fish and Game: Frank Wernette, Dennis Becker, Laureen Thompson, Laurie Briden, Melinda Dorin
3. Department of Water Resources: Terri Gaines, Cassandra Enos, Patty Finrock, Mike Bradbury, Kamyar Guivetchi
4. Suisun Resource Conservation District: Steve Chappell, Arnold Lenk, Jim Waters
5. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Ken Sanchez, Dan Buford, Cecilia Brown
6. National Marine Fisheries Service: Laura Hamilton, Mike Aceituno
7. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Debra O'Leary